

**Dear Salina Citizens:**

The City of Salina is pleased to present to you the Fall 2002 edition of *The Salina Citizen*. We hope this issue not only helps inform you in regard to City projects, but stimulates your interest and participation in local government.

The City Commission and members of the City staff encourage you to ask questions and to make your views known. This is an exciting and challenging time for our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Salina City Commission

**WE'RE AT YOUR SERVICE**

In order to serve you better, City staff maintains a computerized Citizen Service Request (CSR) system. This system assists staff in expediting and effectively responding to citizen concerns.

If you have questions or service requests, please contact the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700. You may also send questions or requests via our e-mail link on the City of Salina's Official Municipal Website: [www.ci.salina.ks.us](http://www.ci.salina.ks.us)

**RESTAURANT SMOKING BAN**

In May 2002, the Salina City Commission approved a new city ordinance regulating smoking in restaurants. This ordinance was passed following a period of extensive research, public information and public comment on the issue. Public opinion is clearly divided on the issue, and individual City Commissioners also hold differing opinions. The ordinance was approved on a 3 to 2 vote.

The Salina restaurant smoking ban ordinance, while adopted, has not yet been implemented.

Following passage of the ordinance, a group of citizens used the provisions of state law allowing certain city ordinances to be initiated by petition to propose an action repealing the pending restaurant smoking ban. In July 2002, the City Commission, recognizing the petition contained the required 1,606 signatures (25% of the number voting in the last city election), declined to repeal the restaurant smoking regulations and chose to place the repeal issue on the November 5 general election ballot. They further delayed implementation of any restaurant smoking regulations until after the voters could decide the issue.

The pending restaurant smoking regulations, which will either be repealed or retained by voters in November, are summarized as follows:

- ⇒ Smoking would be regulated in all restaurants with a seating capacity of 11 or more persons.
- ⇒ Restaurants, including accessory bars, must be "smoke-free" at all times except from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., when smoking-permitted sections may be designated.
- ⇒ A "bar waiver" is available to a drinking establishment which has less than 30% of its sales from food.

**THE SALINA SMOKING BAN ISSUE IS TO BE DECIDED BY VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 5th GENERAL ELECTION.**



Smoking would not be regulated in these free-standing bars.

- ⇒ Licensed private clubs are exempt. Bingo halls, bowling centers and some other facilities with incidental food service are exempt.
- ⇒ Restaurant owners have certain responsibilities under the ordinance, and may be subject to fines in Municipal Court.
- ⇒ The fine for a person smoking where prohibited would be \$25.

An executive summary and the full ordinance are available on the City of Salina website [www.ci.salina.ks.us](http://www.ci.salina.ks.us), or at the City Clerk's office in Room 206 of the City-County Building.

Proponents of the restaurant smoking regulation tend to see it as an important, necessary and reasonable public health law. Opponents tend to view it as unnecessary government intrusion into rights of business owners and as a matter best left to the marketplace and individual choice.

At the November 5 election, a **YES** vote means you want to repeal the Salina restaurant smoking regulations. A **NO** vote means you are in favor of retaining the pending restaurant smoking regulations as adopted by the City Commission.

**Inside:**

**2** Dangerous Dog Laws

**4** Historic Lakewood Bridge

**6** Curbside Recycling Possibility

# Bad Dogs—Bad Dogs-Whatcha Gonna Do?



Due to a much higher than normal incidence of serious dog attacks in 2002, the City continues a comprehensive review of our local laws on the subject of dangerous dogs, as well as our animal control system in general. The City Commission in August 2002 improved our city ordinances by adding stronger language dealing with "duties of owners", "running-at-large" and "animal nuisance/aggressive behavior" code sections.

## Current City Ordinances

- ◊ Require an owner to prevent a dog from running-at-large. For simple running-at-large, the first offense fine is \$25.00; second offense is \$50.00. However, if the dog acts aggressively or other problems occur while the dog is at large, the fine can be as much as \$500.00.
- ◊ An owner failing to prevent their animal from acting aggressively, threatening or menacing may be charged with "animal nuisance activity" and may be fined up to \$500.00. These charges can be filed even if no bite

incident has occurred.

- ◊ An animal which attacks or bites may be declared vicious based on a Municipal Court Judge findings, and the Judge may order the dog euthanized. The owner is subject to fines of up to \$500.00.

These current ordinances give animal control, police and prosecutors significant tools in dealing with neighborhood safety problems caused by dangerous dogs.

Some citizens have requested the City follow the example of other cities—some in Kansas, which either totally ban or highly regulate certain breeds of dogs. This is called "breed-specific legislation". The most common breed either banned or specifically designated as dangerous is the "pit bull". However, some citizens have suggested breed specific legislation covering rottweilers, chows or other breeds.

Breed-specific laws are extremely controversial. Strong opinions are held in favor or opposed to this type of law.

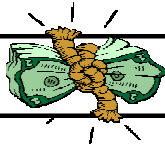
In addition, legal issues

may impact what cities can or cannot do in breed-specific legislation.

Before making any further ordinance changes, the Salina City Commission has directed the city staff to do significantly more research, better evaluate our current system, and to provide opportunities for public comment and input on all animal control and dangerous dog topics.

As part of this review effort, a public information and comment meeting will be held in late October. At this meeting, any concerned citizen may attend, ask questions about dangerous animal laws or give an opinion. Those in favor or opposed to breed-specific legislation may come and give their reasons why they believe this might be good or bad for Salina, or suggest other alternatives for dealing with dangerous dogs. Keep an eye on the local news media to learn when a date and time for this meeting has been set. Or call the City Manager's office at 309-5700 to request to be notified.

## 2003 City Budget



## Conservative But Progressive

The City Commission approved the City of Salina 2003 annual budget after a public hearing on August 12, 2002. The City's budget process begins in late Spring with intense staff work resulting in the City Manager's proposed budget presented in early July. The elected officials then hold several study sessions, reviewing staffing/personnel plans, capital improvement plans, agency contracts and grants, as well as the City's bonded debt financing and enterprise operations. For the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2003, total expenditures are expected to be approximately \$52.4, compared to \$52 million anticipated for 2002. The 2003 budget includes \$41.2 million for operations, \$5.4 million for capital outlay and \$5.8 for capital debt retirement. Despite some softening in the local economy,

the City Commission was able to approve a budget plan emphasizing continuation of our current high service levels, while showing appropriate caution in adopting new programs.

### 2003 Budget Highlights

- \* Property tax mill levy will remain the same as last year, at 24.218 mills, one of the lowest rates among first class cities in Kansas. The City portion of the overall mill levy has not been increased for 21 years. New construction and increases in property values provide for modest revenue gains to the City.
- \* Public safety is enhanced by the addition of two 911 Communication System Dispatchers in the Police Department. The City dispatches all emergency services in Salina and

Saline County.

- \* All funds of the City of Salina are budgeted to meet established fiscal targets and in conformance with established City Financial Policies.
- \* No Water or Wastewater rate increases are planned for 2003.
- \* In addition to the major road projects identified elsewhere in this newsletter, significant capital improvements are planned for the City landfill, storm drainage and residential streets throughout Salina.

The City of Salina prepares annually a *Budget-In-Brief* document as a short, easy to understand overview of the City's budget. The 2003 *Budget-In-Brief* will be available by late December. Please contact the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700 for additional information.

## FIRE —AIRPORT SAFETY

It looks kind of like an airplane, costs as much as some airplanes, but it doesn't fly; it's called a MARFFT "Mobile Aircraft Fire Fighting Trainer". This state-of-the-art prop was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and purchased by the Missouri Department of Transportation. The prop is available to airports in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. In early April, the Salina Airport Authority paid the expense of bringing it to Salina; the Salina Fire Department provided instructors and support equipment for the training. Firefighters who participated in the training included those from Salina and various cities across Kansas.

Pictures really don't do credit to the uniqueness of this technological won-



*Aircraft Fire Fighting Trainer*

der. The MARFFT is designed to simulate various aircraft fires and incorporates safety because the operators have complete control of the unit during operation. The operators use a control booth and initiate different scenarios, such as fire in the cockpit, cargo area, wings, wheels, engines and passenger compartments. Another major benefit of the MARFFT is its environmental friendliness. Unlike past training methods of open burning using fuel oil resulting in heavy black smoke, the MARFFT utilizes clean-burning propane. With our busy Salina Airport, the City and Airport Authority make safety a priority.

## MUNICIPAL COURT EXPANSION—PROGRESS



In late 2000, the City began efforts to improve physical deficiencies that impacted the overall quality of services provided by our Municipal Court. This resulted in the planned addition of a new 6,000 square foot Municipal Court Addition to the current law enforcement center. This new facility will provide the following benefits to those that work and visit our Municipal Court.

- ♦ Elimination of overcrowded lobby and courtroom;
- ♦ Better separation of defendants, witnesses and victims to improve both safety and convenience;
- ♦ Added court security from secure holding areas for defendants brought over from the County jail;
- ♦ Increased traffic safety and parking convenience through a redesigned parking layout, convenient drop-off area, fully accessible parking stalls, and the

elimination of dangerous backing movements into a public street;

- ♦ Greater staff efficiency from a better functional layout and more privacy for attorney-client conversations; and
- ♦ Significant improvements to the overall appearance from landscaping enhancements and a public art element.

The project budget is \$1.5 million, with an estimated completion date of July 2003. Those who have recently visited the law enforcement center or driven around the area should have noticed that construction is already in progress along what used to be Tenth Street. Construction crews are busy digging for the basement and installing underground site improvements that will set the stage for the building addition. While we have tried to minimize the inconvenience as much as possible,



*Municipal Court Addition*

we are asking for your patience as construction continues.

We can't help but express our appreciation to the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Department, Police Department and Leisure Years Center for their patience and understanding. This project would not be successful without their support. When complete, the citizens of Salina will have a top-notch Municipal Court that will continue to provide fair and efficient justice.

# Lakewood Bridge Project

In May 2000, the City completed a plan for a bridge construction project to replace the Lakewood Bridge due to the deteriorating condition of the bridge. This bridge continued to stand out as one of the bridges most in need of repair in the biennial bridge inspection reports. The Lakewood Bridge replacement construction project was approved by the State and City officials in November 2000, for project bidding and contract in November 2003.

The City considered several engineering design firms and selected Olsson & Associates of Lincoln Nebraska as the firm best suited to complete this design due to their experience and familiarity with historic bridge replacements. They also provide a knowledge of grant applications and possible alternate funding sources.

The current bridge obviously has some historical significance and city staff began researching possible locations for the existing bridge to be re-used. As suspected, the 1887-vintage steel truss bridge was found to be on the Historic Register with the Kansas

State Historical Society. The design consultant for the project, Olsson & Associates assisted the City in securing approximately \$30,000 to go toward relocating the existing steel truss bridge. We are presently searching for additional funding sources for the relocation and preservation effort.



*1887 Lakewood Bridge*

With the new Lakewood Middle School opening in August 2002, staff considered the option of re-using the bridge as a pedestrian/bicycle crossing,

as it is really no longer fit for vehicular traffic due to the wood plank deck and narrow width of the bridge. A new location for the bridge was investigated, and city staff found the Elm/Ohio intersection area to be a logical place for a pedestrian/bicycle crossing of the river to serve the Lakewood Middle School.

The initial plan was to move the bridge off the site to allow construction of the new bridge, and in the meantime try to secure additional funding for the installation of the bridge in its new location. The State Historical Society was concerned that the bridge would not ever be put back into service and would therefore lose the historical status. They recommended the immediate re-installation of the existing bridge in its new location. In response, city staff and Olsson Associates are preparing a full project approach and cost estimates for this relocation. Historic Bridge project plans will be considered by the City Commission in coming months.

## Public Access Station for Digital Aerial Photos



In April 2002, the Engineering Division of the City of Salina installed a computer workstation capable of viewing our new digital aerial photos. The new workstation is located in the public information area of Room 205 in the City-County Building. The computer, and the associated software, gives the citizens of Salina the first true public access to the digital information contained in the City's Geographic Information System (GIS).

A Geographic Information System is a computer system capable of displaying and creating both digital maps and aerial photos, as well as storing information about the features on the maps. Until the installation of

this computer workstation, access to the GIS data was limited to a few select City Employees.

In April 2001, Western Air Maps, working under a contract with the City, produced the first set of Digital Aerial Photos of Salina. The aerial photos taken prior to the year 2001 (in some cases nearly 50 years old) were produced and printed on paper. This made it nearly impossible to distribute the images to the public except on a case by case basis. In the past, a citizen interested in viewing the aerial photos would come to Room 205 and request the assistance of a City employee. The employee would retrieve the photo from storage, show it to the interested party,

and wait while the citizen determined whether they had retrieved the appropriate photo. If they wished to take a copy of the photo with them, they were charged a fee for each copy. The copies were produced on a copy machine or on one of the City's blueprint copying machines. The quality of these copies was sometimes poor due to the limited photo copying capabilities of the equipment. This proved to be a time consuming, inflexible and potentially costly method for the public to utilize their aerial photos.

The City installed the Public Access Station with the intent of freeing both the public and the staff from the time and cost of the previous method

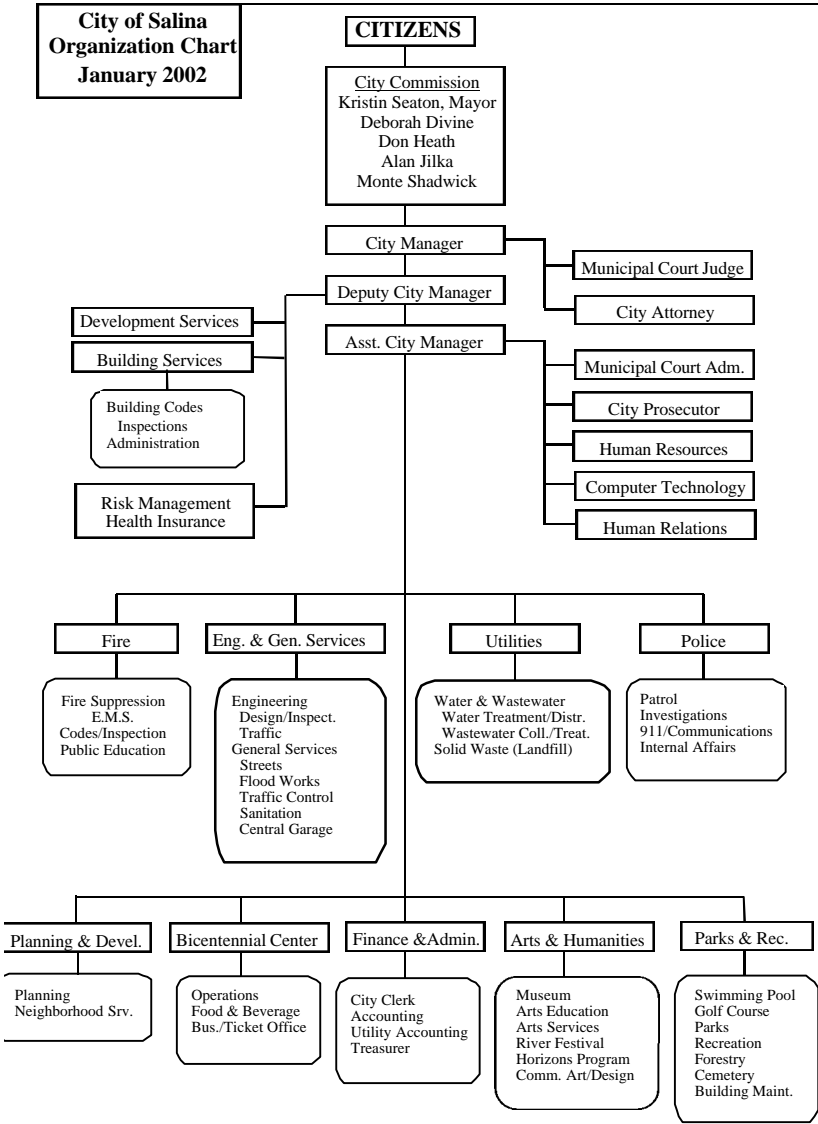
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of viewing the aerial photos. The photos obtained in April 2001 are in digital format, which means that with the proper software, the images can be viewed on a computer monitor and printed on any computer printer. It is no longer necessary for people interested in viewing or printing an aerial photo to request assistance from staff members. The computer is available to the public during business hours and instructions for finding the location in which you are interested are provided. When you first use the viewing program, you will be presented with what we hope is a very user-friendly series of menus. These menus, along with the instructions, should lead you through the simple process of locating, view-

ing, and printing the appropriate aerial view.

The Engineering Division staff would like to encourage interested citizens to stop by Room 205 and use the workstation to view the aerial photos. We invite comments and suggestions about how we might improve your access to this important source of information.



**Job Opportunities**

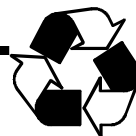
City of Salina job vacancies are advertised in *The Salina Journal* weekly, appearing in the Sunday Edition and can be seen daily on the Government Information Channel (20). Depending on the nature of the position, the City may advertise in other publications.

A City of Salina employment application must be completed for each position and a resume may be attached to the application. You may complete an application online at [www.ci.salina.ks.us](http://www.ci.salina.ks.us). The City generally establishes application deadlines for all advertised positions. The length of the deadline is usually a minimum of ten (10) days.

For more information on City of Salina employment opportunities, please call the Human Resources Department at (785) 309-5710 or (TDD) at (785) 309-5747 or visit us on our website. The Human Resources Department is located in Room 200, City-County Building, 300 West Ash. The City offers a generous employment package including employer retirement contributions, deferred compensation programs, and health insurance.



# LOOKING CURBSIDE FOR RECYCLING



The City of Salina is investigating additional avenues for furthering the reduction of solid waste going to the landfill. Many successful waste diversion programs have been implemented in the past, including the City's yard waste composting program, household hazardous waste program, mulching mower rebate program, and the Solid Waste Venture Grant Program, which provides seed money for recycling and diversion programs. Still, the City would like to increase its waste reduction efforts.

One program that has been suggested is curbside recycling. The City of Salina/Saline County Solid Waste Management Committee, an advisory group that makes solid waste policy recommendations to the City Com-



***Bagged Recyclables***

mission, recommended that curbside recycling be investigated as part of the City's solid waste goals. The Commission approved these goals in May of this year, and research has begun on curbside recycling.

What is curbside recycling? Curbside recycling is a curbside collection service for recyclables that is intended to make recycling more con-

venient. Most curbside recycling programs share the same basic elements. Customers gather recyclable material into suitable containers and place them at the curb on a designated pick-up day. Crews in trucks come by, collect the materials, and take them to a central processing facility. There the material is bulked and sent to manufacturing mills, where the old material is turned into new products.

There are several methods of collection used for curbside recycling. In Kansas, three major systems prevail. These are co-collection, curb-sort, and bag systems. Each system has its own advantages and disadvantages.

The City of Salina is certainly not the first city in Kansas to consider curbside recycling. Some are towns of fewer than 25,000 people or suburban cities. In many cases, private businesses provide recycling collection for several communities. There are larger communities, however, in which the city government provides citizens with a curbside recycling program, either directly or by contract. There are a variety of methods used for payment of curbside recycling costs. The programs do not make money. City staff estimates a monthly cost of curbside recycling at \$3.00—\$5.00 per household per month.

One City in Kansas that is similar to Salina, and which offers curbside recycling, is Hutchinson. The City of Hutchinson has a bag-based collection system which is operated under city-contract by a local private waste hauler. Stutzman's Refuse Disposal

collects recyclables from participating City of Hutchinson refuse customers, and sorts the material at Stutzman's material recovery facility. Stutzman's then sends the material to various manufacturers.

For the City of Salina, there is currently one piece of information more important than the market for materials, the types of collection systems, the options for material processing, and the other details of running a curbside-recycling program. The City of Salina needs to know one vital



***Recyclables at Material Recovery Facility***

piece of information: Do the citizens of Salina want curbside recycling and are we willing to pay the cost? To help answer that question, the City will conduct a survey of Salina residents in the next few months to determine community interest in a curbside-recycling program. A public education campaign will precede the survey to provide the community with facts of curbside recycling. In addition to the survey, public meetings will be held to offer an interactive forum for public views. A decision may be made by summer 2003, as the City considers its 2004 budget.

# CENSUS 2000—Access Through The Internet

Census 2000 information for the City of Salina is now available via a link on the City's web page. Simply log on to the City of Salina's website, [www.ci.salina.ks.us](http://www.ci.salina.ks.us), and click on the "Public Information" icon. A list of documents will appear including "Census 2000 Data". Clicking on the document title will take you to a page explaining how the study of demographics (human populations) can provide a picture of the changing character of a community. Two links on this

page will provide Census 2000 information: the "demographic informa-

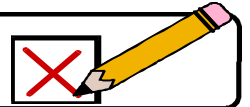


tion" link will produce four documents with basic demographic infor-

mation on the City of Salina. For more detailed and customized information, the "American Fact Finder" link will take you to the Census 2000 website where a customized data set can be created for the City of Salina as well as any other city in the State of Kansas. Printed instructions will help with the customized search. In addition, Vicki Koepsel, Senior Planner for the City of Salina, can be reached at 309-5720 if you need assistance with Census 2000 data.

## PROJECT UPDATES

## FUTURE ROAD ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS



In recent years great strides have been made in improving the road system in and around the City of Salina including major expansions of Ohio Street, Crawford Street, Ninth Street, intersection improvements and new interchanges on I-135. However, there are several major road enhancement projects that are in the design stages right now and will be under construction within the next 5 years. In conjunction with the Kansas Department of Transportation, the City of Salina has put into place several major projects which will greatly enhance the road system for Salina.

The following is a list of key projects and tentative timelines for projects between 2003 and 2005 in Salina. The actual schedule for each project is subject to change based upon many factors.

### 2002:

1. South Marymount Road Improve-

ments. (Complete)

2. South Ninth Street Corridor, Phase III, Improvements. (Completion in November)

### 2003:

3. I-135/Water Well Road Interchange.
4. Schilling Road/Centennial Road Improvements at Airport Industrial Center.

5. I - 70 Reconstruction (KDOT).

### 2004:

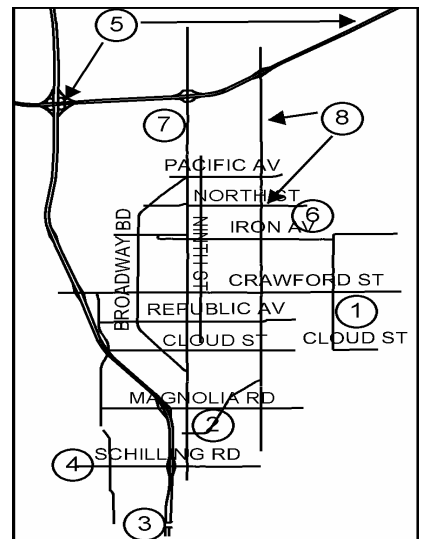
6. Lakewood (Old Smoky Hill River) Bridge Replacement.
7. North Ninth Street (Mulberry Creek) Bridge Replacement.

### 2005:

8. North Ohio Street Railroad Overpass.

The City Engineering Division is actively involved at various stages with each of these projects. In all cases, the project design is underway and the funding mechanisms are

place. More information will be provided to interested or affected citizens as the projects advance to the construction stage. If there are questions or concerns regarding any of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact the City Engineering Division at (785) 309-5725.





## WHAT'S NEW ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE?

Our Web: [www.ci.salina.ks.us.org](http://www.ci.salina.ks.us.org)

A lot of Information from a simple little click!

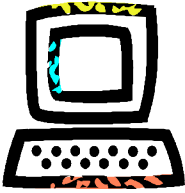
For the last few years you have used the City of Salina's website ([www.ci.salina.ks.us](http://www.ci.salina.ks.us)) to get useful information about your City programs and services. From our site you can apply for a job, pay your utility bill, fill-out a building permit application, see what's going on in the cultural community, get the latest news on Bicentennial Center events, find out who to call if you have a service problem, or learn about how healthy your drinking water really is.

Over the last year, we have continued to expand our web site to provide even more information about important and changing services. Are you interested in City recreation leagues? Now you can follow the latest league standings from our web page. Are you interested in genealogy research? Try our new on-line search function for the Gypsum Hill Cemetery. Just type in the last name and the information immediately appears. Have you recently driven South Ninth Street and wondered about the construction schedule? It is all on-line!

Our goal as your City government is to provide the latest, most up-to-date information about services that are important to you. This includes

adding new features such as an active City meeting/function calendar, 2000 Census information about our changing community, various new on-line forms and brochures, and a copy of our recently completed market-based downtown plan.

The new household hazardous (HHW) waste facility page provides facts about hazardous chemicals found in the home. It includes information about our free HHW disposal site and has an interactive kid's section. Our on-line utility



payment function makes paying your monthly utility bill quick and easy. If you are interested in employment with the City, you can see all of our current job openings, and submit an on-line application and resumé with a simple click.

If you haven't visited the City's web page lately, we encourage you to browse around. While our on-line presence has been enhanced greatly over the last year, we are constantly looking at adding information and features to keep you even more informed. Please let us know if you have comments, suggestions or questions about the City's website. You can also provide those to us on-line or contact the City Manager's Office at 309-5700.

## Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Salina does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

Jason Gage, Assistant City Manager, has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in section 35-107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA coordinator.

*For information, contact:*

ADA Coordinator

Jason Gage

Assistant City Manager

City of Salina

300 W. Ash

Salina, Kansas 67401

Phone: (785) 309-5710

(TDD) (785) 309-5747

Articles were written by City Staff, with design by Michael Morgan and LaDonna Bennett. Questions/Comments? Call the City Manager's Office at 309-5700



**Residential Patron**  
Salina, KS 67401

PRSRT STD  
CAR-RT SORT  
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Permit No. 400

## City Commissioners want to hear from you

Members of the Salina City Commission are always interested in your comments and suggestions on city services and policies.

Each Commissioner welcomes letters and telephone calls. Write them at P.O. Box 736, Salina, KS 67402-0736. Commissioner's phone numbers are listed below:

<b>Deborah Divine</b>	<b>823-3447</b>
<b>Don Heath</b>	<b>827-8142</b>
<b>Alan Jilka</b>	<b>827-0002</b>
<b>Kristin Seaton</b>	<b>825-7926</b>
<b>Monte Shadwick</b>	<b>827-6761</b>